

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3542

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, YO, US

SUBJECT: IREX-FAISECTC EXCHANGE

REF: STATE 165751 (C)

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL, EO CALLED ON FAISECT:

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR RELIC TO INFORM HIM THAT IREX
UNABLE PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR YUGOSLAV PARTICIPANTS.
AGAIN STATED US POSITION THAT WHILE WILLING
DISCUSS POSSIBLE INCLUSION IREX EXCHANGE IN AYEC
PROGRAM, IF YUGOSLAVS WOULD INCREASE FINANCING
ACCORDINGLY, COULD NOT AGREE TO GIVING TRAVEL-ONLY
GRANTS TO IREX NOMINEES UNTIL BASIC PRINCIPLE DISCUSSED,
AGREED TO, AND APPROVED BY AYEC BOARD, DEPARTMENT,
AND BFS. THUS, SINCE STUDENTS MUST DEPART YUGOSLAVIA
BY END OF JULY, DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY QUESTION
CAN BE RESOLVED IN TIME TO HELP THEM. PAO ALSO
PROTESTED BEING PRESENTED WITH APPARENT FAIT ACCOMPLI
IN THAT FAISECTC HAD INFORMED IREX CANDIDATES
THEY COULD PICK UP FULBRIGHT GRANTS BY MERELY APPEARING
AT EMBASSY; TWO CANDIDATES HAD IN FACT ALREADY
APPEARED, REQUESTING VISAS AND PLANE TICKETS.

2. RELIC RESPONDED THAT HE NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT
DETAILS IREX PROGRAM BUT FACED WITH SITUATION IN WHICH
8 GRANTEES NEEDED TO LEAVE BY END OF MONTH AND YUGO-
SLAV SIDE HAD NO MONEY TO PAY FOR TRAVEL. HAD HOPED
THAT IN VIEW OF IMPENDING VISIT OF PRESIDENT FORD AND
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US CONGRESSMEN SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO HELP THESE

GRANTEES.

3. PAO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT SITUATION HAD COME TO IMPASSE, STRESSING THAT US SIDE WISHES TO INCREASE ITS EXCHANGES WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND THAT INCLUSION OF IREX GRANTEES IN PRESENT FULBRIGHT CONTEXT WOULD IN EFFECT DECREASE SIZE OF PROGRAM.

4. PAO AS CHAIRMAN OF AYEC HAS SENT LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF COMMISSIN REQUESTING MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS IREX PROBLEM AS WELL AS QUESTIONS INVOLVING US STUDENT PROGRAM, YUGOSLAV REPLY TO US PROPOSAL ON NEW DIRECTIONS FOR AYEC PROGRAM, POSSIBLE INCLUSION OTHER US/YUGOSLAV EXCHANGES UNDER AYEC UMBRELLA, AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO AYEC. DOUBTFUL MEETING CAN TAKE PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE SINCE YUGOSLAV MEMBERS ABSENT ON VACATION.

5. COMMENT: HAVE LEARNED THAT AT LEAST ONE IREX NOMINEE WAS WARNED SOME TIME AGO HE MIGHT HAVE TO PROVIDE OWN TRANSPORTATION TO US AND HAD SAVED ENOUGH MONEY TO DO SO. THUS APPEARS FAISECTC CONTENTION THAT MONEY FOR IREX NOMINEES' TRAVEL UNAVAILABLE ON YUGOSLAV SIDE NOT EXACTLY CORRECT. SINCE MOST OF THE IREX NOMINEES ARE IN SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY (PRIORITY FIELDS FOR YUGOSLAVIA), EMBASSY BELIEVES YUGOSLAV SIDE CAN FIND WAY TO PAY THEIR TRAVEL. SEE LITTLE PROFIT FOR US SIDE IN PLAYING "NICE GUY" ROLE FOR FAISECTC'S BENEFIT IN THIS INSTANCE. BELIEVE MUST HOLD FIRM ON POSITION THAT AYEC ACTIONS MUST REFLECT MUTUAL DECISIONS OF US AND YUGOSLAV SIDE IF WE ARE TO HAVE PROGRAM WHICH MEETS OUR NEEDS AS WELL AS YUGOSLAVS'.

SILBERMAN

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